

Sullivan County NH

Type of meeting: Public Hearing of the FY07 Proposed County Budget
Board of Commissioners Budget Presentation

Date / Time: Thursday, June 1, 2006; 7 PM

Place: Newport County Complex 14 Main Street, Superior
Court Room

Attendees: Commissioners Donald S. Clarke - *Chair*, Ben C. Nelson - *Vice Chair* and Ethel Jarvis - *Clerk*; Ed Gil de Rubio - *County Manager*; Courtney Marshall - *Health Care Administrator*; Scott Hagar - *Superintendent of Department of Corrections*; Dodi Violette - *Account Clerk I/Accounts Payable*; Sharon Johnson-Callum (minute taker).

Public attendees: Gordon Flint - Newport resident; Bob Beaudry - Charlestown resident; Deb Mozden - Women's Supportive Services Executive Director; James Lowe - Argus Champion staff reporter, Janice Bryk - Payroll Clerk/Newport resident.

7:05 Commissioner Clarke opened the public hearing. Commissioner Jarvis led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Clarke commended all for their work on the budget. He then discussed:

- Goals of Commissioners
 - Stabilize Property Taxes
 - In depth Study of Assisted Living
 - Study of Land Management/Buildings
 - Embellish New Revenue Resources
 - Continue the County Grant Programs
 - Invest in the County Infrastructure

Mr. Gil de Rubio, County Manager, discussed the FY 07 budget of \$26,917,452 broken down by funds as follows:

- General Fund 10 \$10,639,662, 40% of budget,
- Deeds Fund 20 \$450,000, 2% of budget,
- Grant Fund 24 \$369,770, 1% of budget,
- Internal Government Fund 30 \$1,502,763 6% of budget,
- Sullivan County Health Care Fund 40 \$12,678,507, 46% of budget and
- Capital Fund 42 \$1,222,750, 5% of budget.
- Budget Highlights
 - 3% increase in wages
 - 24.5% increase in medical benefits
 - 38% in workmen's comp
 - 9.34% increase in revenues for the nursing home
 - \$1,215,835 for Capital Expenditures

- An in-depth study regarding assisted living
- Stabilize property taxes
- Increase in Medical Benefits
 - Sullivan County is "Self-Insured",
 - Increases attributable to inflated medical and prescription costs
 - We continue to investigate options.
- Workmen's Comp.
 - Continue to provide staff training and education
 - Work with insurance provider
 - Communication, communication, communication

Mr. Gil de Rubio introduced Courtney Marshall, Health Care Administrator, and Scott Hagar, DOC Superintendent.

- Sullivan County Health Care
 - Our public/private relationship has been successful
 - Mr. Gil de Rubio spoke of deficit in past, 1.9 million was going towards the deficit in taxpayer money. Mr. Marshall confirmed Health Care facility census was at 150/151 with 19 skilled care. Mr. Gil de Rubio commended Patti Koscielniak - External Care Coordinator, Heidi Smith the Health Care Director of Nursing and the staff.
 - A projected 9.34% increase in revenues
 - Commissioner Clarke noted page 5 reflected the Health Care revenue while 13-14 reflected the expenses. Mr. Clarke noted the importance of not using tax payer funds to subsidize the Health Care operations for FY07. Mr. Gil de Rubio indicated this would be the second year in a row that County taxes were not budgeted towards the Health Care operations.
 - Capital Expense Worksheet discussed which was broken down between Unity Complex, Nursing Home Specific, DOC and Newport Items. Total FY07 Capital Expenditures reflect \$2,091,750
 - Mr. Gil de Rubio indicate in their promotion of the Health Care how they would be improving on landscaping, continuing to demolition old buildings - \$100,000 tagged for assessment of assisted living complex – he spoke of June 12th meeting regarding assisted living assessment, the \$100,000 would take both studies/embellish on it and attain some type of architectural concept. Mr. Gil de Rubio discussed the big items on the Nursing Home Specific with \$150,000 for HVAC upgrade for kitchen and \$325,000 for Stearns AC and Ventilation. He spoke briefly about the DOC needs assessment, and wrapped up with the items at the Newport complex such as a new boiler and window restoration/upgrades.
- Assisted Living

- A tradition in SC
- Two studies have been completed
- Focus groups have been consulted – he briefly discussed the focus groups to be held.
- 100,000 in the capital budget for architectural assessment,
- June 12th, Monday, Newport 9 a.m. - they will hold a meeting with the Delegates to hear from the consultant.

Commissioner Clarke reviewed the following PowerPoint slides:

- o Subsidiary Revenue
 - Amount to be raised from taxes \$9,283,721
 - FY05 Convention Litigation Money \$281,005
 - Proposed Surplus for FY06 \$433,380
 - Total Subsidiary Revenue \$9,998,106
 - Pie chart that showed how the taxes of \$9,283,721 would be distributed as follows:
 - 48% Human Services \$4,411,268
 - 28% Department Of Corrections \$2,617,708
 - 13% Capital at \$1,222,750
 - 11%, Other \$1,031,995.
 - He noted absent on the pie chart was the nursing home as tax payer funds would not be used.
- o Estimated 2006-2007 County Taxes
 - FY 05 was \$9,433,119
 - FY 06 – 07 Estimated tax would be \$2,83,721
 - A decrease of \$149,398 and all towns will see a decrease in county tax with FY 07 budget
- o Fiscal Trend
 - Fiscal Trends from FY03 – FY07 were discussed in the following categories:
 - Total salaries
 - Retirement costs
 - Health care & dental costs
 - Total costs of capital (fund42)
 - Costs of DOC (Fund 10)
 - Costs of Human Services (Fund 10)
 - Property Taxes
 - Total amount of budgets
- o Upcoming meetings
 - Friday, June 2nd EFC Final budget meeting. EFC may need to reconvene Monday, also.
 - Monday, June 12th 9a.m. Assisted Living Update and Proposed Budget Presentation Probate Court Room.
 - June 19th 2006 9 a.m. County Convention FY07 Proposed Budget Unity – Ahern Building.

PUBLIC INPUT

Commissioner Clarke opened the hearing for public questions.

Bob Beaudry, *"great job where you've been able to put money back in to capitals. That's the fund we seem to steal out of first in schools. And, not to raise taxes is a great job"*.

Commissioner Clarke noted the last bond payment was paid, which provides room to take care of maintenance before they have to look at bonding again for DOC project.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Commissioner Nelson reminded all of the Sunday, June 11th – Annual Pancake Breakfast.

Commissioner Clarke noted Ron McPhall, Dietary Director, did a wonderful event for the newly renovated Rehabilitation Center Open House recently, and is very impressed with what he's been able to accomplish on the bottom line. He also commended Greg Chanis and Courtney Marshall - all doing a wonderful job and making them happy.

Commissioner Clarke again asked if anyone had any other questions. There were no other comments/questions.

7:43 The hearing was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



*Ethel Jarvis, Clerk
Board of Commissioners*

EJ/s.j-c.